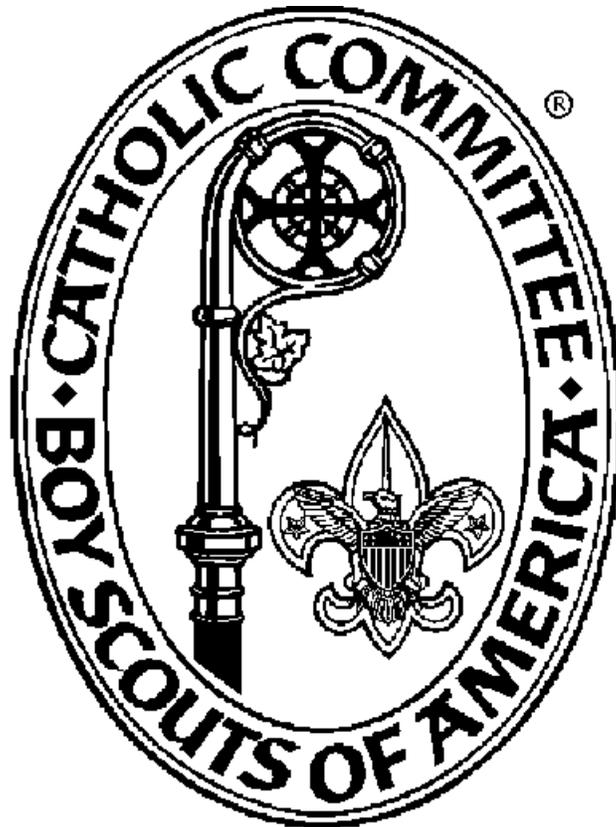


ORGANIZING A UNIT AT A

CATHOLIC CHURCH



New-Unit Resource Kit



CATHOLIC CHURCH

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3339 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Official Catholic Directory
Most dioceses in U.S.
publish weekly newspapers

CATHOLIC POPULATION IN U.S.

Approximately 62 million
20,000 parishes

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Special Interest in Scouting. The Catholic Church, with affiliated organizations, is one of the largest chartered organizations of the BSA. An estimated 355,000 Catholic youths are registered in the BSA movement. Twenty-three percent of the U.S. population is Catholic.

Structure. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) gives general supervision to the entire Scouting movement under Catholic auspices.

The U.S. Catholic Conference (an administrative organization of the coordinating body of the Church) is divided into 188 (arch) dioceses. In each diocese the bishop has appointed a Scout chaplain and lay chairman. These representatives make up the NCCS.

All dioceses have a chaplain and lay chairman for each BSA council within the diocese. The diocesan and council Catholic committee are patterned after the program established on the national level. NCCS is a Catholic Church committee and serves as a adviser capacity to BSA.

These committees give leadership to the implementing of an effective program in the parish.

The NCCS is administered by an Executive Board. This board has operating committees:

Chaplains	Membership
Communications	Religious Activities
Finance	Religious Emblems
International Catholic Committee on Scouting	Ministry Formation for Scouters
	Vocations

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Coordinating body of the Church in the U.S.; includes Roman and Eastern Rites.

UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
Administrative organization of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ARCHDIOCESES AND DIOCESES

Territory under administration of a bishop, which comprises the parishes, institutions, and properties of the Church and people within the area. Eastern Catholic administrative units are called archeparchies, eparchies, or exarchies.

Local Contacts. When approaching a parish or other Catholic organization keep in mind the following youth objectives of the Church:

To provide a Christian formation for youth.

To provide an opportunity for youth to engage in action projects that exemplify what it means to be a Christian in the world today.

Scouting-Related Materials

Scouting in the Catholic Church videotape

Scouting and the Eastern Catholic Church videotape

Scouting in the Catholic Church, No.16-440

NCCS Literature/Forms, No.16-101

Scouting in Your Parish, No.16-211

Religious Emblems for Catholics, No.16-436

Scouting Forms Christian Leaders, No.16-210

Religious Principles of the BSA, No.16-146

Light Is Life Record Book, No.16-3011

On questions regarding the Eastern Catholic Church, contact Catholic Relationships at the national office. The Eastern Catholic Church includes the Byzantine, Ukranian, Malachite, Russian, Maronite, Armenian, and Chaldean churches.

CATHOLIC PARISHES IN MY DISTRICT

Parish	Location	Name of Pastor	Phone	Units

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING
1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75038-3096



29 September 2000

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing as the Episcopal Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. My letter is intended to be one of reassurance. I also intend it to clarify some areas of confusion about the Church and its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Dale vs BSA* was a victory for the Roman Catholic Church. By it the government is precluded from dictating to the Church, a private organization, its qualifications for membership or leadership. It is for this reason that the United States Conference of Bishops, through its general counsel, submitted a brief as an Amicus Curiae in support of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Catholic Church is discriminating in its expectations. Aspirants to membership and leadership who do not meet specified qualifications or who are unwilling to live up to expressed expectations render themselves ineligible. The Church is empowered to establish qualifications and expectations for membership and leadership.

The Supreme Court decision in *Dale vs BSA* gave the same status to the Boy Scouts of America.

The ideals and expectations of the Boy Scouts of America for membership and leadership are congruous with the ideals and expectations of the Roman Catholic Church. Both require conduct consistent with their mutual values. The Scout Law and Oath are clear expectations for anyone aspiring to become a Scout or a Scout leader. One must be committed to them to be faithful as a member and as a leader in the Boy Scouts of America.

Chastity is a virtue. It is an expectation of Roman Catholic boys and men. Boy Scouts and unmarried young men are not only expected to be chaste, but celibate as well. Sexual conduct outside of marriage is a violation of their human sexuality. The Church expects married men to be chaste and faithful to their spouses. We expect all leaders in the Church to be above reproach.

The Boy Scouts of America expects no less of their members and leaders. There is a strong bond between the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts provide a wonderful complement to our ministry to youth.

I plead with you not to lose heart for taking a consistent and strong position for protecting the right to choose leadership appropriate to Scouting. Anyone who would teach boys that homosexual conduct is morally acceptable would clearly not be an appropriate leader in the church or in Scouting. We have a right to expect the best of those who lead our young. The Boy Scouts are being challenged because of a stance rooted in religious principle. I am proud to be affiliated with them.

Should you have questions of me, feel free to contact me at Gettelfing@cs.com.

Let us pray that God will bless our efforts on behalf of His children and young men and women in Scouting.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gerald A. Gettelfinger'.

Most Reverend Gerald A. Gettelfinger
Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting



SCOUTING FORMS CHRISTIAN LEADERS

By Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger
Diocese of Evansville, Episcopal Liaison
National Catholic Committee on Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America needs little introduction. For over ninety years, Scouting in the United States alone has proven itself, again and again, to be an ideal program for both the Scouts and the adults who work with them. Scouting spans the years from boyhood to young adulthood to which boys and young men commit themselves voluntarily.



The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is the necessary link established by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to work hand-in-hand with the Boy Scouts of America. To begin with, the Scout Oath and Law of the Boy Scouts of America embodies values and morals that are solidly Christian, indeed Catholic. Doing one's best; helping others at all times; paying attention to moral, mental and physical well-being; and striving to grow in virtue are all essential parts of Scouting.

In the Catholic Church, there is one particular aspect of Scouting that deserves special attention today. Scouting has tremendous potential for developing Christian leaders from among Catholic youth. It provides a powerful complement to the Church's ministry to Catholic youth. Scouting, under the tutelage of adult Catholic leaders, offers young people a unique opportunity to grow in faith and in leadership in the company of their peers.

In these our times many of our young men and women are struggling with an identity crisis. They sometimes find themselves uncertain and confused. Boys involved in the Scouting experience from boyhood to adulthood, and boys and girls in Venturing, have a real opportunity to come to know self in a safe and wholesome environment. They learn personal ideals that give clarity of purpose to their lives. They are able to attain skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

Training, challenging, and supporting young men and women to develop responsibility, maturity, and leadership are constant elements of Boy Scouting and Venturing. At the same time, youth involved in Scouting are called on to be independent, to grow in self-reliance, and to learn to interact with others --- to experience interdependence.

Through the religious emblems program, Scouts have an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and to engage in regular service to their parish churches. Through the presence and activity of Scout chaplains, Scouts have an opportunity to develop lasting friendships with priests and religious outside the customary parish and school settings. Frequently called upon to lead religious services, to help out in parish or diocesan activities, to engage in programs directed toward justice and charity, Scouts have an opportunity to experience and be a part of Church in ways that are both vital and personal to them.

I strongly recommend the highly developed, proven program of Scouting under Catholic leadership. Scouting provides adult role models as well as companionship for young people. The men and women involved in working with Scouts from the Tiger Cub to the Explorer level are an exemplary group of adults. I have seen outstanding Catholic lay leaders devote untold hours of their time and energy to Scouting because they believe that Scouting is vital in today's world. They see it as a unique opportunity for young people to grow in faith, life, and leadership. I share their vision and enthusiasm.

With all of its possibilities the Scouting program as used by Catholic leaders can assist young men and women in becoming outstanding members of their parish and school communities. Through interaction with fellow Scouts, through church-related activities, and through standing in awe of God's creation in natural outdoor surroundings, Scouts can experience in a powerful way the love of God and neighbor. They establish friendship with others. They learn of the interdependence required of one another when each other's life is at stake.

The Catholic Church is fortunate to have in the Scouting movement so apt a vehicle for Christian development. It can be noted that many church leaders today, clerical; religious; and lay, have come from the ranks of Scouting.

I encourage parents, priests, religious leaders, and teachers to support Scouting. If you have a pack, troop, or post in your parish, help in any way you can. If your parish or local church community does not have a Scouting program, please give it serious consideration. Scouting offers a rare opportunity for young people to develop as leaders, to appreciate God's creation, and to experience God's love in and through working with others. I believe in Scouting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Gerald A. Gettelfinger
Episcopal Liaison
National Catholic Committee on Scouting

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Organizing a Unit at a Catholic Church

Target Date

1. Review the brochure **Scouting as a Youth Ministry (16-440)** prior to making an appointment.

2. Contact the priest or director of religious education for an appointment.

3. Make a sales call on the priest or director of religious education.

4. The church adopts Scouting and the priest or director of religious education appoints a chartered organization representative.

5. The chartered organization representative appoints an organizing committee of parents and interested church members. They meet to discuss the next step and complete the New-Unit Application.

6. The organizing committee selects and recruits key leaders and committee members.

7. Train leaders in program planning (Fast Start).

8. Plan program for at least the first six months.

9. Recruit youth members and orient parents.

10. Complete the paperwork and submit it to the council office.

11. Start unit meetings.

12. Install the unit and formally present the charter at a meeting of the church.

Overcoming Objections To Organizing a New Unit

1. **We already have a youth program.**

It's great that your organization cares about its youth (and the youth of the community). Scouting is ideal to work hand in hand with existing programs to enhance what you currently offer. Not only are our goals/values compatible, but our methods can/will work well with what you do. Scouting can bring programs and facilities to you to make a good program even better.

2. **We tried Scouting once and it didn't work.**

What do you feel was the reason? (Explore – look for the biggies – lack of organization/commitment, uncommitted or poor leaders, lack of training, lack of vision, poor support from district/council/BSA.)

Address each issue:

Organizational Commitment – Starts at the top – the strong commitment of your (head, board, etc.) will be contagious.

Leaders – Use selection, not recruiting – get often and get the very best in organization (after all, it's your program), train them and then support them!

Vision – Be creative about how to serve the youth of the organization; have a community dream and then implement the dream.

BSA Issues – Assume it won't happen again – promise and **deliver**.

3. **We don't have any youth in our organization.**

Scouting provides a means for your organization to become known in the community, especially among families with children of Scout age. It's **great** advertising and community goodwill. In addition, the Scouting program is a tremendous tool to outreach into the community and give people an opportunity to become a part of your organization.

4. **We cannot afford Scouting.**

The ninth point of the Scout Law states: A Scout is thrifty – he learns to pay his own way. We teach that Scouts and units should pay their own way. We provide the opportunities for troops to raise money for their use. The only cost to the chartered organizations is a charter fee of \$20.

5. **We don't have any space in our building for them to meet.**

I understand how you feel; others have also felt that way. We have found that many are able to identify classroom meeting areas as possible meeting places for the Scouting program. Additionally, several organizations have used the resources of their members or employees to provide meeting space for meetings. The other potential solution is that of a joint chartered organization to charter the Scouting program.

6. No one knows anything about the Scouting program.

Many of our very best leaders have started out knowing little or nothing about the Scouting program. Our council provides various training courses throughout the year, roundtables and self-study materials. Subjects include outdoor skills and other topics. We also provide volunteer support for leaders to help them provide a high-quality program.

7. We don't agree with several of the Boy Scout stands on membership.

We feel that as a private organization we have a right to establish our membership requirements. I thank you for your time, but I feel that there's nothing further we can do at this time to help you.

8. We cannot charter a Scouting program because we have no leaders.

The BSA has a process to help you choose leaders. The process involves listing the characteristics required for a leadership position and then identifying individuals who fit those characteristics.

9. We cannot charter a Scouting program because our youth are mostly from single-parent families.

One of the strengths of the Scouting program is its ability to include and serve a variety of family configurations. In fact, Scouting is particularly helpful to youth from single-parent families.

10. No one has time to be a leader.

It's important that you find the time; if you don't, there are people on the streets who will find the time to spend with your child, and they may not be the type or kind of people you want your child to be around. Scouting has a program that brings families together, consisting of family camping, religious awards, etc.

11. Liability is a major concern of our organization.

The general liability policy issued to the Boy Scouts of America provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations and participating organizations for liability arising out of their chartering of a traditional Scouting unit. Your \$20 charter fee covers your organization with the liability insurance provided by the BSA.

NEW-UNIT ORGANIZATION PROCESS

1. **Identify the prospect.** District leaders identify a community organization prospect with the potential to operate a unit after researching the youth market and considering the most promising community organizations.
2. **Approach the prospect.** An influential Scouter or the district executive makes an appointment to meet with the head of the community organization or top leadership group in the organization after researching the organization and determining how Scouting can help meet its needs.
3. **Make the sales call.** The district executive and the unit organizer or other influential Scouter meet with the head or top leaders of the community organization to sell them on how Scouting can help meet the needs of the organization and to obtain the willingness of the organization's leaders to establish a unit.
4. **Organization adopts the program.** The organization formally adopts the Scouting program, confirms the appointment of a chartered organization representative, and appoints an organizing committee.
5. **Organizing committee meets.** The organizing committee and the new-unit organizer meet to plan the next steps for establishing the unit and complete the new-unit application. A commissioner is assigned by the district to assist the unit.
6. **Select and recruit key leaders.** Using BSA selection procedures, the organizing committee selects and recruits unit leaders and confirms unit committee members, and the community organization approves all unit adults.
7. **Train the leaders.** Unit leaders complete Fast Start training and are invited to the next basic training course and the next district roundtable.
8. **Plan and organize the program.** New unit leaders are trained in program planning and the first month's program is developed.
9. **Recruit youth members and orient parents.** Recruit youth members, hold an orientation meeting for parents and youth, and select/recruit additional adults as needed.
10. **Complete the paperwork.** Complete all adult and youth applications, collect necessary fees, and submit with new-unit application to the council service center.
11. **Conduct first unit meeting.** Unit leaders begin youth meetings with the coaching of their unit commissioner.
12. **Follow up.** The unit is installed with a presentation of the charter to the chartered organization.

Note: Do not delete any steps, although some steps may be accomplished at the same time without regard to suggested sequence.